

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Original) A system for storing data comprising:
a virtualization apparatus coupled to a computer; and
a plurality of storage devices coupled to said virtualization
apparatus;

wherein said virtualization apparatus

issues, based on the request from said computer, a notice to
the effect that a predetermined size of a virtual volume has been
allocated to said computer,

upon receiving an access request issued by said computer to
said virtual volume, allocates storage areas existing in said
plurality of storage devices,

converts the access request received from said computer to
an access request addressed to a storage device having the storage
areas allocated to said virtual volume, and

transmits the access request to said storage device.

3. (Original) A system of claim 2, wherein

said notice to the effect that a predetermined size of a
virtual volume has been allocated contains a virtual volume
identifier and a size of said virtual volume,

upon receiving the access request having said virtual volume identifier from said computer, said virtualization apparatus allocates storage areas existing in said plurality of storage device to a virtual volume that is identified by said virtual volume identifier,

converts the access request received from said computer to an access request addressed to a storage device having the storage areas allocated to said virtual volume, and

transmits the access request to said storage device.

4. (Original) A system of claim 3, wherein

said virtualization apparatus has an access conversion table which shows matching relationships between a virtual volume and the storage areas in said plurality of storage devices that are allocated to said virtual volume, and

when the storage areas existing in said plurality of storage devices are allocated to said virtual volume, updates said access conversion table.

5. (Original) A system of claim 4, wherein

said virtualization apparatus converts, by referring to the updated access conversion table, the access request received from

said computer, and transmits the converted access request to the storage device.

6. (Original) A system of claim 4, wherein
said virtualization apparatus updates said access conversion table, and releases allocation of storage areas, among storage areas allocated to the virtual volume, that are no more used by said computer.

7. (Original) A system of claim 3, wherein
said virtualization apparatus, at the time of writing management data based on initialization of a file system, allocates a storage area having a smaller capacity than the storage area available at the time of receiving an access request from said computer to said virtual volume, and writes the management data in the storage area thus allocated.

8. (Original) A system of claim 7, wherein
said virtualization apparatus uses log information of the system file to identify storage areas that are no longer used by said computer, among the storage areas that are allocated to the virtual volume.

9. (Original) A system of claim 3, wherein

said virtualization apparatus further has a free space management table in which a capacity of empty storage areas existing in said plurality of storage devices that is ready for allocation to a virtual volume is recorded, and outputs information that is recorded in said free space management table to said computer.

10. (Original) A system of claim 9, wherein

said virtualization apparatus updates said free space management table when storage areas existing in said plurality of storage devices are allocated to the virtual volume.

11-19. (Canceled)